Low friction material 5 is attached to bearing bracket 9 by fasteners 6. Bearing brackets 9 are arc segments disposed outwardly and spaced around bearing surface ring 4. Attachment device 10 locks each bearing bracket 9 to bearing support ring 11. Lifting eyes 8 are provided for lifting each bearing bracket 9. Bearing support ring 11 is rigidly attached, preferably by welding, to hull bracing 12 outside of moonpool tube 13. Inside radius 20 is gas flame cut and hand trimmed within a suitable radial accuracy of about ± 3 to 5 millimeters deviation from a true circle.

A sufficient thickness, such as from 25 to 60 millimeters, of low friction material 5 provides a wear allowance to compensate for small variances in radial position of lower bearing units 14 in addition to normal wear incurred over the service life of mooring turret 16.

Each bearing low friction material pad 5 and bearing bracket 9 can be removed from bearing support ring 11 while the turret is secured to a sea bottom by anchor legs 21. The procedure is enabled because of the presence of gap 7. The attachment device 10 is released from bearing support ring 11, and the pad and bearing bracket 9 is lifted with lifting eyes 8 such that attached pad 5 and bearing bracket 9 are lifted together above ring 11. A worn pad 5 can be removed at that point by removing fasteners 9. A new pad 5 can be substituted for a worn pad. The bracket 9 and new pad 5 are then lowered by lifting eye 8, and the attachment device 10 secures the bearing members 5 and 9 again to bearing support ring 11.